

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 068707

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PERP, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PAPER ON LEBANON SITUATION

DURING MEETING MARCH 16 WITH THE SECRETARY, DOBRYNIN
HANDED OVER THE FOLLOWING NON-PAPER ON THE ISRAELI ACTION
IN LEBANON:

(BEGIN TEXT)

MOSCOW IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT A NEW SHARP AGGRAVATION
OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS A RESULT OF THE
ARMED INVASION OF LEBANON BY ISRAEL. ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE
INFORMATION--AND THE US GOVERNMENT IS, OF COURSE, WELL
AWARE OF IT--WHAT IS ACTUALLY TAKING PLACE IS A WIDE-SCALE
MILITARY INTERVENTION BY ISRAEL AND IN FACT THE OCCUPATION
BY IT OF A PART OF THE TERRITORY OF YET ANOTHER ARAB
SOVEREIGN STATE.

THERE CAN BE DIFFERENT OPINIONS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE
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INCIDENT WHICH ISRAEL EXPLOITED AS A PRETEXT FOR ITS IN-
VASION, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE CANNOT BE TWO OPINIONS
AS FAR AS THESE ACTIONS THEMSELVES ARE CONCERNED. THEY
REPRESENT A DIRECT AGGRESSION.

WE PROCEED FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE US GOVERNMENT

REALIZES THE ENTIRE DANGER OF THE SITUATION AND THE CONSEQUENCES IT CAN RESULT IN UNLESS URGENT MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO PUT AN END TO THE ISRAELI INTERVENTION AND TO HAVE ITS TROOPS IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWN FROM THE TERRITORY OF LEBANON. IT CAN BY NO MEANS BE RULED OUT THAT IN THIS CASE THE EVENTS COULD ASSUME SUCH A TURN THAT OTHER MIDDLE EAST STATES, AND NOT THEM ALONE, COULD FIND THEMSELVES INVOLVED. WE ARE SURE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTERESTS OF EITHER THE US OR THE SOVIET UNION.

IT IS ALSO QUITE EVIDENT THAT THE ISRAELI MILITARY INTERVENTION IN LEBANON, UNLESS IT IS HALTED AT ONCE, CAN THROW BACK FOR MANY YEARS IF NOT UNDERMINE TOTALLY THE POSSIBILITY OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

WE URGENTLY CALL UPON THE US GOVERNMENT TO USE ALL THE POSSIBILITIES AT ITS DISPOSAL TO EXERT EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE ON ISRAEL, TO TAKE MEASURES FOR IMMEDIATE HALT OF THE ISRAELI INTERVENTION AND COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ISRAELI TROOPS FROM THE TERRITORY OF LEBANON, TO PREVENT FURTHER AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION.

(END TEXT)
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